

IN THE CLAIM:

1- 7 (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A ring part, comprising:

a first partial ring with a first partial ring inner side and a first partial ring outer side and a first end with a first partial ring non-flexible inner side joining structure at the inner side and a second end with a first partial ring non-flexible outer side joining structure at the outer side, said first partial ring inner side joining structure being substantially the same in shape as said second partial ring outer side joining structure;

a second partial ring with a second partial ring inner side and a second partial ring outer side and a second partial ring first end with a second partial ring non-flexible inner side joining structure at the second partial ring inner side and a second partial ring second end with a second partial ring non-flexible outer side joining structure at the second partial ring outer side, said first partial ring inner side joining structure being substantially the same in shape as said second partial ring outer side joining structure and said first partial ring being substantially identical to said second partial ring, wherein each said joining structure has a back-engaging surface of a shape that is inclined with respect to the radial direction of the ring part, wherein said shape that is inclined extends from an inner side concave edge, in the vicinity of a hook shaped portion and is joined to a convex end edge on the respective partial ring.

9. (Previously Presented) A ring part according to claim 1, wherein each said joining structure has a shape of a hook for engaging behind another said joining structure.

10. (Previously Presented) A ring part according to claim 9, wherein each said joining structure has a shape that is substantially point symmetrical in construction.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A ring part according to claim 8, wherein each said joining structure of one partial ring is frictionally retained in another said joining structure of another said partial ring.

14. (Currently Amended) A ring part construction, comprising:

a first partial ring with a first partial ring inner side and a first partial ring outer side and a first end with a convex arcuate end wall portion joined via an angled surface to a concave surface to form a first partial ring non-flexible inner side joining structure at the  
5 inner side and a second end with a convex arcuate end wall portion joined via an angled surface to a concave surface to form a first partial ring non-flexible outer side joining  
structure at the outer side, said first partial ring inner side joining structure being

~~substantially the same in shape as said second partial ring outer side joining structure;~~

a second partial ring with a second partial ring inner side and a second partial ring outer side and a second partial ring first end with a convex arcuate end wall portion joined via an angled surface to concave surface to form a second partial ring non-flexible inner side joining structure at the second partial ring inner side and a second partial ring second end with a convex arcuate end wall portion joined via an angled surface to concave surface to form a second partial ring non-flexible outer side joining structure at the second partial ring outer side, said first partial ring inner side joining structure being substantially the same in shape as said second partial ring inner side joining structure and said second partial ring outer side joining structure being substantially the same in shape as said first partial ring outer side joining structure and said first partial ring being substantially identical to said second partial ring;

a multi-piece functional part, said first and second partial rings being engaged together with said first partial ring non-flexible inner side joining structure frictionally engaged with said second partial ring non-flexible outer side joining structure and said first partial ring non-flexible outer side joining structure frictionally engaged with said second partial ring non-flexible outer side joining structure, to radially hold together said functional part.

15. (New) A ring part according to claim 14, wherein each inner side joining structure has an outer side planar end face adjacent to said convex arcuate end wall portion

and each inner side joining structure has an inner side planar end face adjacent to said concave surface, said outer side planar end face engaging said inner side planar end face with said first and second partial rings engaged together.

16. (New) A ring part according to claim 15, wherein opposite said outer side planar end face said concave surface joins said inner side at a point and opposite said outer side planar end face said convex arcuate end wall portion smoothly joins said outer side.